

2024-2025 Weekly Devotions

WEEK 1: GROW IN LOVE

Question: What is the best gift you've received? How did it make you feel?

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

DEVOTIONAL:

In basketball, sometimes a player will give a great pass or assist to help a teammate score. But God gave us the greatest gift ever-His Son, Jesus. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to save us. Jesus came to us the ultimate gift by offering His life for us, so that anyone who believes in Him can have eternal life. God didn't hold anything back, and He offers His love freely.

Just like basketball, God wants us to work as a team with Him. Jesus did everything for us so that we can have the chance to live forever with God. This is the most amazing and loving gift anyone could receive. It's a gift we can never repay, but we can show gratitude by living like Jesus - loving others, helping them, and working as a team.



QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean that Jesus loves you?
2. How can you show love to others on your team & in your family?
3. In basketball, how do you show your teammates you care about them? Can you do the same for others outside the game?

APPLICATION:

Just like you trust your teammate to make a good play, you can trust Jesus and what He's done for you. Every time you show love and kindness to others, whether on the court or off, you're reflecting God's love that He showed to you through Jesus.



LET'S PRAY



WEEK 2: GROW IN BEING A SERVANT

Question: What does it mean to be humble when you score a great shot or make an awesome play?

Memory Verse: For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

DEVOTIONAL:

Basketball is a sport where people celebrate the big plays, like scoring a great shot or making a cool move. But Jesus teaches us that true greatness isn't about being the star; it's about serving others. Even though Jesus is the King of the universe, He humbled Himself and served others. As players, we can be humble by passing the ball, encouraging others, and not trying to take all the glory for ourselves. Greatness comes from serving and lifting others up and pointing to Jesus.



QUESTIONS:

1. How can you be humble when you make a great play?
2. Why is it important to put the team before yourself? How can you serve your team?
3. How did Jesus serve others?
4. Who can you serve this week? How?

APPLICATION:

This week, practice being a servant on and off the court by celebrating your team's success rather than just your individual achievements. Look for ways to serve your teammates and your family, whether it's through an assist, a kind word, or encouraging others when they mess up. Remember, true greatness comes from lifting others up, just as Jesus did.



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WEEK 3: GROW IN PATIENCE

Question: What do you do when your team is behind, and it feels like you'll never catch up?

Memory Verse: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2

DEVOTIONAL:

In basketball, sometimes the game doesn't go your way, and it can be easy to get impatient, especially when you're losing. But Jesus shows us that patience is key. He was patient with His disciples, even when they didn't understand Him. When we feel frustrated on the court, we can remember that Jesus is patient with us, and we can show patience with our teammates, too. No matter how tough the game gets, we can trust that God has a plan and will help us stay calm and patient.



QUESTIONS:

1. How can you stay patient when things aren't going well in a game or at school?
2. How can patience help your team be better in practice and the game?
3. Can you think of a time when Jesus showed patience with someone?

APPLICATION:

During your next game, try to stay patient even when things aren't going your way. Instead of getting frustrated, remind yourself to stay calm. Show patience to your teammates, too— give them grace and encourage them to keep going.



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WEEK 4: GROW IN FORGIVENESS

Question: When was the last time you had to ask someone to forgive you?

Memory Verse: Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13

DEVOTIONAL:

Mistakes happen in basketball—whether it's missing a shot, making a bad pass, or missing a key defensive play. Jesus teaches us to forgive others when they make mistakes. He forgives us for everything, even when we mess up. Instead of holding a grudge or getting angry with a teammate who makes a mistake, we can follow Jesus' example and forgive them. This will help keep the team's spirit strong and allow everyone to move forward.



QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel when someone forgives you for a mistake you made in a game?
2. How can forgiveness help your team stay united?
3. Why is it important to forgive your teammates when they make mistakes?

APPLICATION:

When a teammate messes up, practice forgiveness by letting go of any frustration or anger. Choose to encourage them instead of getting upset, just as Jesus forgives you when you make mistakes. This attitude will strengthen your team and help everyone grow.



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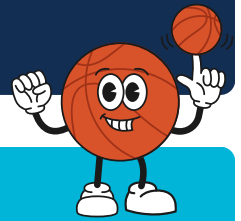
WEEK 5: GROW IN DILIGENCE

Question: What do you do when you're tired and don't think you can keep going during a game?

Memory Verse: The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. Psalm 28:7

DEVOTIONAL:

Basketball is a physically demanding sport, and there are times when you feel tired or like giving up. The Bible says that He is our strength and our shield, which means He's there to protect us and help us through tough times. When you feel worn out during a game, remember that God is with you and will give you the strength to keep going. Being diligent means that you'll stick with something till the very end. This season, learn to rely on God and your team to stick with it to the very end.



QUESTIONS:

1. How do you find strength to keep playing when you're tired?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to rely on Jesus for strength?
3. How did Jesus show diligence during His life on earth?

APPLICATION:

When you're feeling exhausted, take a moment to pray and ask God for strength. Trust that He is there to help you push through. Whether it's in the game or in life, know He is always with you.



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WEEK 6: GROW IN PEACE

Question: How do you stay calm when the game gets intense, and everyone is getting upset?

Memory Verse: I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

DEVOTIONAL:

Basketball can be full of excitement, and sometimes the pressure can make us feel anxious or stressed out. Jesus offers us peace, even when things are chaotic around us. When you feel stressed or upset on the court, you can remember that Jesus is with you, offering His peace. This peace helps us stay calm, focus on the game, and make better decisions. Instead of reacting to pressure, we can rely on Jesus to give us peace in every situation.



QUESTIONS:

1. How do you stay peaceful when things get tense on the court?
2. Why do you think Jesus offers us peace in tough situations?
3. How can you share Jesus' peace with your teammates?

APPLICATION:

The next time the game gets intense, take a deep breath and ask Jesus for peace. When you feel calm, you'll make better decisions and help bring peace to your team.



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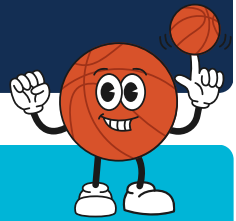
WEEK 7: GROW IN KINDNESS

Question: What does it look like to show kindness to your teammates, even on a tough day?

Memory Verse: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

DEVOTIONAL:

In basketball, everyone has different strengths. Some players score a lot, while others might be better at defense or passing. No matter what role you play, Jesus calls us to be kind. Kindness means supporting others, cheering them on, and encouraging them. Your kindness can help build a strong team culture. You can be kind to others by offering words of encouragement, a helping hand, or a positive attitude. When you show kindness, you're reflecting the heart of Jesus.



QUESTIONS:

1. What type of kindness do you need when you're having an off day?
2. What are some kind things you can say to a teammate after a good play?
3. How did Jesus show kindness to others during His time on earth?

APPLICATION:

This week, make an effort to show kindness to everyone on your team, especially those who might be feeling down or struggling. Your encouragement can make a huge difference in someone's day and help build a stronger team.



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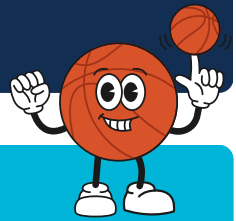
WEEK 8: GROW IN SELF-CONTROL

Question: What do you do when you feel frustrated and want to quit or act out on the court?

Memory Verse: "A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls." Proverbs 25:28

DEVOTIONAL:

Sometimes, basketball games can get intense, and it's easy to let your emotions take over. But Jesus shows us the importance of self-control. Even when people were mean to Him or when He faced tough situations, He remained in control. Self-control helps you keep your emotions in check, stay focused, and avoid making rash decisions that could hurt the team. When you feel frustrated or angry, take a deep breath and remember that Jesus is with you, helping you stay in control.



QUESTIONS:

1. What helps you stay calm when you're feeling frustrated?
2. How can self-control make you a better player on the court?
3. Why is it important to have self-control in all areas of life?

APPLICATION:

When you start to feel frustrated on the court, pause and take a deep breath. Ask God to help you stay calm and in control. With self-control, you'll be a better player and a better teammate.



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WEEK 9: GROW IN BOLDNESS

Question: What do you do when you're afraid to try something new, like taking a big shot, learning a new skill or playing a new position?

Memory Verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

DEVOTIONAL:

Being bold and brave isn't about not being afraid—it's about doing the right thing even when you are scared. Jesus faced many challenges, but He never backed down from doing God's will. On the court, being brave might mean trying a new play, taking a shot when you're nervous, or encouraging a teammate who is scared to fail. When we face challenges, we can remember that God is with us, just as He was with Jesus, giving us courage.



QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel when you try something new on the basketball court?
2. How can you be brave when faced with a difficult situation in a game?

APPLICATION:

The next time you're faced with a challenge, whether it's trying something new on the court or stepping up when your team needs you, remember that Jesus gives you courage. Step out in faith, knowing that you are not alone.



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WEEK 10: GROW IN JOY

Question: How does it feel when you're having fun playing basketball with your teammates?

Memory Verse: Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

DEVOTIONAL:

Basketball is meant to be fun, and joy can be one of the best parts of the game. Jesus was full of joy, and He wants us to experience that same joy in our lives. Even when things didn't go His way, Jesus knew the joy that comes from doing God's will and loving others. When we focus on Jesus, He fills our hearts with joy. Whether we win or lose, playing basketball with joy makes the game more fun and helps us share the love of God with our teammates. No matter what happens, we can be joyful if we have life with Jesus.



QUESTIONS:

1. What brings you joy when you play basketball?
2. How can joy help you play together and encourage others?
3. How did Jesus show joy during His life?

APPLICATION:

This week, focus on enjoying the game and sharing that joy with your teammates. No matter the score, keep the joy of playing and being together at the center of everything you do. Let Jesus' joy be your strength!



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